

EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL

THE ONLY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

OWNED, CONTROLLED and PUBLISHED by AFL CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL of ALAMEDA COUNTY and BUILDING and CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL of ALAMEDA COUNTY

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1955

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REPORT

To Our Readers - Owners

'RELENTLESS'

"Relentless pressures to conform" are growing stronger in American life, Senator Fulbright of Arkansas said recently.

Big Business is reaching down into the universities and telling "students how they should behave if they wish to be employed" when they are graduated, he said.

The Senator supplied proof of this. He read aloud to his audience the following from a Socony (Standard Oil Company of New York) personnel pamphlet circulated at Princeton University:

"Personal views can cause a lot of trouble. The 'isms' are out. Business being what it is, it naturally looks with disfavor on the wild-eyed radical or even the moderate pink."

★ ★ *

UNION-'ISM'

It's easy to guess that trade unionism and Americanism of the Jefferson - Jackson - FDR type are among the "isms" that are "out" in the little black book of Socony.

The Princeton Alumni Weekly quoted the priceless Socony statement in the course of an article discussing undergraduate apathy toward political and social problems. If they're apathetic that's just what Socony wants. If they're moronic or idiotic, still better!

"Personal views can cause a lot of trouble." What kind of views is one supposed to have? Impersonal views turned out by a Univac machine?

Let's be careful that we don't begin demanding that all trade union members eschew personal views and adopt mental Univacs instead.

★ ★ *

'TISN'T JUST JOE!

It isn't just Joe McCarthy, said Fulbright, that's the trouble: it's having 10 states not with a single one of their cities having competing newspapers; two dozen advertisers accounting for 50% of radio networks' income; so that the general effect is that people hear, see, watch, and listen to only one side of public questions."

And that "one side" wants us to elect a military grin to the White House and to have no "personal views"!

Registration Deadline For Oakland Voters

If you're not on the Great Register of Voters—and if you failed to vote in both the primary and general elections of 1954, your name has been removed — then here is the deadline for the Oakland elections this spring:

Oakland deadline: You must register by Thursday, February 24 in order to be eligible to vote in the April 19 primary election.

There won't be any deputy registrars around so you'll have to register either at City Hall or the County Courthouse.

Print Specialties 382 To Elect Exec Board

Six Executive Board members and two delegates to the Central Labor Council will be selected today (Friday) at an all-day election held by Printing Specialties 382.

Running for the Executive Board are Eileen Anderson (incumbent), Sylvester Balem (inc.), Santi Belachia, Gordon Bennington (inc.), Dick Clark (inc.), Mary Ellen Curran, Ray Geiger (inc.), Charlotte Kohler, Henry Less, Andy Liotta, George Pella, Sam Robbins, Henry Ruff, Annie Sastini and Robert Williams (inc.).

Nominees as Central Labor Council delegates are Kendall Cahill, Ray Geiger (inc.), and Charles Wyckoff (inc.).

OFFICIAL NOTICES

The following unions will find notices of important meetings called by their officers on page 3 of this issue of the Journal.

HAYWARD PAINTERS 1178
HAYWARD CULINARY WKRS & BARTENDERS 823
CEMENT MASONS 594
STEAMFITTERS 342

Childers Reports Progress Made at Safety Conference

J. L. Childers, Building Trades Council business representative, reported this week on encouraging progress made at the 5th Annual Governor's Safety Conference which he attended last week in Los Angeles.

On the credit side, he said, was the fact that out of 61 specific safety recommendations suggested last year, the 1955 conference could report that it had completed action on 27, was in the process of completing 17 others, and was continuing work on another 7. Only 10 recommendations had failed to get any action, Childers added.

Another encouraging sign, said Childers, was the conference's action in splitting its overall construction committee along craft lines so as to speed the study of safety problems.

Each separate craft committee, Childers explained, will have both union and employer representatives "so that recommendations coming from them will be more specific and meaningful."

Another piece of information Childers took away from the conference was the advice to all building trades unions to incorporate into all their contracts clauses from the State Safety Orders which apply to their respective crafts.

"If you do this," he said, "you'll have legal power to enforce the safety orders for your craft without going to extra trouble and red tape."

On the debit side, according to Childers, was a speech delivered to the conference delegates by Gov. Goodwin Knight.

"The governor made his usual fine talk and had pretty nearly everybody in tears by his heart-felt sympathy for the poor unemployed workers of California," said Childers derisively, then added:

"But I haven't seen him or his man Burkett (State Employment Director) do anything to alleviate the lot of those he was crying about."

FIREMAN ON CARPET

On-the-job alertness by a council delegate coupled with an assist by the Oakland city manager has resulted in the suspension of a city fireman for violating department rules against working for pay while off-duty.

The case started early this year when Charles Garoni, Linoleum Layers 1290, discovered the fireman laying carpet for a floor covering contractor. Garoni was successful in getting the employer to sign a statement saying he had paid the man for a full day's work.

Thus armed, Garoni brought the matter to the attention of Childers who forwarded a work-violation complaint to the city manager's office.

Early this week Childers received a letter from City Manager Wayne E. Thompson advising of the disciplinary action taken against the work rule violator.

SATURDAY SPOT CHECKS

On a related subject, the council indicated that it will soon reinstate its Saturday spot checks of local job sites in an effort to stop non-union construction work.

COUNCIL GUEST

Charles Artman, western states representative for the Sheet Metal Workers International Union, sat in as a guest of the council this week. Artman, who covers Arizona, California and Nevada for his union, was introduced to the delegates by Lloyd Child, Sheet Metal Workers 216.

CONTRACTOR SIGNS

Secretary John H. Davy announced the signing this week of a council contract by Ed Jarvis, pipe line contractor.

Divine's Name Is Dropped by State

The day after Lester J. Divine resigned as Oakland's police chief this week just before he was scheduled to appear before the grand jury to explain this and that, it was stated in Sacramento that Divine is out of the running for the job of San Francisco area liquor control director.

State Liquor Director R. S. Munro said the dropping of Divine's name had nothing to do with the scandals at present smogging up the Oakland cop cohorts.

Divine said he quit because of ill health; Captain Wyman W. Vernon succeeds him.



IAM OLD-TIMER HONORED—Walter W. Cartmell, a charter member and first business representative of IAM Tool & Die Makers 1101, is shown above (center) surrounded by well-wishers who turned out to honor him at a union-sponsored testimonial dinner held at the Lexington Hotel last Saturday. The four well-wishers include, from left to right, O. W. Berkebile, a long-time IAM member (49 years); John J. King, IAM Grand Lodge Representative, Oakland Regional Office; Roy M. Brown, IAM Grand Lodge Vice President, from Los Angeles; and Henry E. Billings, Local 1176 president. (Photo courtesy of Oakland Tribune).

IAM Tool & Die Makers 1176 Honor Old-Timers at Testimonial Banquet

Some 300 unionists and friends jammed into the Lexington Hotel last Saturday night to take part in a gala testimonial banquet sponsored by IAM Grand Lodge Representative Tool & Die Makers 1176 on behalf of their old-time members and apprentice graduates.

Chief recipient of the testimonial affair was Walter W. Cartmell, a charter member and first business representative of IAM Local 1176. Cartmell, now retired, was presented with a \$400 check as a small token of the Local's appreciation for Cartmell's services as business representative from 1937 to 1946.

Both presentations were made by Henry W. Billings, Local 1176 president.

Robert S. Ash, secretary of the Central Labor Council, attended at the invitation of Local 1176 to make award presentations to 15-year members. These included Florintino Aletto, Frank Bennett, Paul E. Manufacturing Co., Frank W. Blickle, Louis R. Butler, Ernest Dunne Co., Intercostal Paint Co., Edward Krug, R. C. Patton, A. C. Silva, J. F. Stuhlinger, Mark Wadman, E. L. Wanley, J. R. Washburn and J. R. Washburn Jr., and D. W. Winters.

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HOW TO BUY Catastrophe Insurance

By SYDNEY MARGOLIUS
Labor Consumer Advisor for Labor Journal

Newest trend in commercial accident and health insurance is toward so-called "catastrophe", "catastrophe" or "major medical" insurance. In this type of policy you pay the cost of illness up to a certain amount. Over that, the company pays the cost up to the limit set in the contract. This is much like the familiar deductible collision insurance on a car.

Many commercial insurance companies are now bringing out such policies for both individual and group coverage. In fact, catastrophe insurance can be considered the insurance industry's answer to the widespread public desire for protection against medical disaster, and the general complaint that sickness insurances sold by commercial companies are too expensive for the limited benefits provided.

Unfortunately, the answer is seriously incomplete.

Prices of such deductible insurances are naturally less than for more comprehensive policies, since you pay all ordinary medical expense. Here is a typical policy. It pays 80 percent of the insured family's medical expense up to a limit of \$5000, but not those expenses of a sickness which are less than \$250, \$500 or \$1000, according to the policy bought. The cost for a family of the \$250-deductible policy is \$91.20 if the oldest person in the family is not over 34; \$112.80 if between 35 and 49, and \$176.40, if between 50 and 60.

The real catastrophe in catastrophe insurance is that it does not insure, and thus discourages, the ordinary medical care which families require, and in actual practice may thus lead to some disasters the insurance purports to protect against. The insurance companies consider they have a pretty good idea in deductible policies, because, as one insurance-company official put it, "Full reimbursement tends to encourage over-use of available medical facilities."

But as the Medical Information Survey and other impartial authorities have found, moderate-income families don't get enough medical care, let alone "over-use" it.

The real problem is that the average wage-earner's earnings of \$3750 a year leave him only \$185 for all medical expenses, assuming he spends the typical five percent. But if you spend \$100 a year for catastrophe insurance, you have only about \$85 left for all other medical expenses—care in ordinary illnesses, dental bills, ordinary medicines, etc. It is impossible, of course, to cover ordinary illnesses and dental care for \$85 a year.

Household Hints

Spots and Stains

To remove grease spots from wallpaper, make a paste by mixing Fuller's earth on French chalk with carbon tetrachloride. Allow to dry thoroughly, then brush off. Test an inconspicuous place to make sure the colors won't bleed.

Use a dry dust mop or a brush on your waxed floors; an oil mop tends to soften wax and make it smeary.

To remove a green spinach stain from a tablecloth or napkins; moisten the spot, rub it well with soap, and bleach it in the sun. Then launder the piece as usual in hot soapsuds.

A seal of cleanliness will soon identify rug or carpet of proved cleanliness. Many new kinds of rugs and carpets are cleanable, but some can't be cleaned satisfactorily, or require special cleaning methods. The seal has been started by the National Institute of Rug Cleaning, a nonprofit trade organization.

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United Employers Take a Few Cracks At Ways of Unions

United Employers, Inc., has issued its report on activities for the year 1954. The report is signed by E. A. Woodside, general manager and vice president.

During the year United Employers' negotiators handled or assisted in a total of 149 negotiations, 35 of them on a multi-employer basis.

Woodside's comment on the national situation in 1954 is:

"At the end of the year, nationally speaking, only 10% of settlements provided for no wage increases, and most clustered between 4 cents and 9 cents an hour, with 5 cents as the most common raise. Additional fringe benefits were also involved in two-thirds of these settlements."

GRIEVANCES

Over a hundred grievances were processed during the year by United Employers, the report says, adding:

"None resulted in work stoppages, and only one in arbitration. While the large majority of the grievances were caused by disputes over vacation, discharge, and holiday rights, we also resolved difficult problems involving health and welfare plans, work jurisdiction, and security."

Three arbitrations in which the organization participated are cited: "one in the Cemetery Group and the other for Pillar Furniture Manufacturing Company . . . the third the Simon Hardware Company."

The two largest strikes cited were "in the Paper Box Industry and the Bay Area Cemeteries."

A crack at labor unions is taken in the following paragraph:

"We also represented our members in several instances of organizational or 'stranger picketing.' This practice occurred when unions picketed places of business—regardless of the fact that they did not represent any employees! The most deplorable examples of this occurred in the Motel Industry and at the new Eden Hospital near Castro Valley."

PICKETING

The report goes on to contend that "organizational picketing is a vicious practice which ignores a basic policy in collective bargaining—that the employees have the free choice to join, or not to join, a labor organization."

Speaking of the National Labor Relations Board the report says that "regrettably we feel the board severely tightened its requirements for taking jurisdiction. Thus many of our members have been eliminated from the protections of the Taft-Hartley Act—without the benefit of State laws governing collective bargaining and representation."

Credit is taken for representing employers when workers filed claims for wages against employers: "The worth of a united employer group is reflected in the fact that regardless of the size of a claim we were able to defend and protect our members, and other employers, against dangerous predators."

Credit is also taken for knocking down unemployment insurance claims alleged to have been unwarranted:

"Typical of what every conscientious employer can do in reducing the unemployment tax rate, we scored 90% in combating what we considered to be unwarranted or fraudulent claims."

In addition, the sign men get a surgical benefit on a graduated scale up to \$25, and a maternity benefit for all members and dependents up to \$150.

The pension plan now covers benefits of between \$20 and \$50 a month for each retired member.

OAKLAND TEACHERS ASSN. (company union) this week asked for an average 4% pay increase during the next fiscal year.

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More Measures Put In For AFL Listed By Neil Haggerty

Last week East Bay Labor Journal summarized the provisions of a number of bills sponsored by the State Federation of Labor and introduced at the preliminary session of the Legislature which ended January 21. These bills will be pressed in the session opening February 28.

Following are proposals in additional AFL-sponsored bills as announced by State Fed Secretary C. J. Haggerty:

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Retroactive payment of waiting period benefits if disability lasts over 7 days, instead of 49 days.

Full coverage to domestic workers on compulsory basis.

Disability insurance indemnity liens, against benefits granted under workmen's compensation, confined to compensations for temporary disability.

Full coverage to agricultural workers on compulsory basis.

Rehabilitation training and payment of full benefits during training.

Employer required to file proof that he has posted notice of insurance carrier in conspicuous place.

Reimbursement of transportation costs of employees required to submit to medical examination.

Free choice of doctor at expense of employer.

MISCELLANEOUS

Time and a half for all State employees required to work overtime.

Wage rate of the higher classification for State employees working in higher classification.

Removes presumption that statement of causes filed by an agency is true in disciplinary proceedings against State civil service employees.

Payment to State employees for damaged uniforms.

Statutory minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour for both men and women.

Collective bargaining rights for employees of municipal public utilities; and for employees of hospital districts.

No interference with fire fighters' right to join union.

Collective bargaining rights for all public employees.

State Apprenticeship Council to have 6 representatives instead of 4 from labor and management; and two instead of one from public.

.1500 hour instruction instead of 1000 for beginners in barber schools.

Neck openings should be big enough for the child's head to go through without strain.

Front openings with flat buttons of medium size will encourage the child to dress and undress herself.

Pockets are necessary for any child's garment.

Rumford Committee Says Fluoridation Is Best Handled by Communities

Assemblyman W. Byron Rumford (D., Berkeley) as chairman of an interim subcommittee has announced that the group recommends that local communities make their own choice as to whether the water supply of the community should be fluoridated.

Rumford said the weight of expert testimony taken at hearings by the subcommittee favored fluoridation on the ground that children drinking fluoridized water all their lives have much fewer tooth cavities than those in untreated water.

The subcommittee reported that a "small, very vocal group of citizens is strongly opposed to fluoridation."

Proposed legislation would prohibit fluoridation.

Patronize Our Advertisers!

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Painters Expect New Pact Pay Hike

By HUGHIE RUTLEDGE

Another meeting of the Bay Area business representatives held on Tuesday of this week and much discussion a went changes in the agreement, particularly in regards to wages. Seems as though practically all the representatives are of the opinion that wages are the most important part of our activities with various changes in a few clauses, such as clearing up the welfare fund, etc., taking second place. As the brothers are aware, for the first time in 10 years or more the compulsory arbitration clause has been removed from the agreement and we are now in a position to take economic action to enforce reasonable changes in wages without the necessity of trading like a bunch of horse-traders.

As these notes are typed for the press on Tuesday we are unaware of what discussion will take place at our meeting of Thursday the 10th but we assume that a good many recommendations will come from that meeting and also on the next meeting of February 24.

Brother (Bill) Mulhare was confined in East Oakland Hospital for a few days but should be back to work the end of this week. With the exception of Brother Arnone who we reported on last week we know of no other brother hospital confined at this time.

Our present local death insurance policy has had a bad experience during the past year and the trustees and executive board is presently meeting with representatives of the insurance companies for a renewal of this policy which expires April 30, 1955.

Still working on the preventive medicine program which we mentioned last week. This program will give medical examination to dependents without cost and will be covered under that section of the health and welfare program called laboratory benefits. Any of the wives or children of our eligible members who have medical ills such as tiredness, run down condition, sleeplessness, consistent coughs, colds, swellings, heart trouble, excess fatigue, or other complaints will be given an examination and told just what their physical condition is and what to do to prevent the condition from becoming worse. We are of the opinion that these examinations will find minor disorders that if taken care of at present may eliminate costly hospital, surgery and treatment bills later. This applies particularly to the wives and also the mothers. More on this later.

The next meeting of the local will be Thursday, February 24, at which time will be the final opportunity to bring up any changes you wish to be entered in the new agreement. Deadline for all proposals to be in the hands of the negotiators is March 1, 1955. Please attend and make your wishes known where they count.

16th Assembly Demos To Meet Here Feb. 16

A joint meeting of the 16th Assembly District Democrats and the 16th Assembly District Precinct Organization will be held at the Piedmont School at Piedmont Avenue and John Street, on Wednesday, February 16, at 8 p.m.

The speakers will be C. D. Gibson and Mrs. Dorothy Greene, co-chairman of the 7th Congressional District, on the topic "Plans for 1955." The meeting is open to the public.

MARSHALL THORPE, president and business representative of Printing Specialties 332, and his wife, Mabel, celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary on February 1.

Patronize Our Advertisers!

Dressing Room Chatter

Theater Union Set For Pact Changes

By JOE CONNELLY

The current agreement between the majority of conventional run movie theaters and the union expires February 28, 1955.

At the regular meeting scheduled to be held February 17, 1955 the general membership will discuss improvements on the wage scale and working conditions.

It is your duty and obligation to attend this meeting to present your ideas and suggestions, to be embodied in the proposed new contract.

Your officers are ready and willing to serve you, but they rely on the membership to suggest improvements on the proposed new agreement.

Be sure and attend the meeting of February 17, at 11:30 p.m. to present your ideas in formulating the new agreement.

This is not just another meeting, it is a meeting that may mean dollars and cents in your pay check.

Gail Duncan of the Laurel applying for membership . . . Nick Gorbunoff leaving the Roxie for the U.S. Army . . . Dick Totaro leaving the same spot for reason unknown . . . A fellow by the name of Gallagher is the new boy there . . . Returning to the turnstiles, puts George Evey back to work . . . Meredith Ralph nee Robinson of the Vogue applying for reinstatement . . . Nancy Williams of the same house making application for membership . . . Former member George Daley, writing from Pallikonda, South India, to send regards to his friends . . . Bruce Edman observed doing a bang-up job on the door of the Haywood theater . . . Gordon Stoddard talking over old times with former fellow worker Roberta French formerly of the Chimes . . . Tom Baptista of the Broadway coming into the union business office an hour after closing time to pay his dues . . . Barbara Paul and Jerry Fourmet after going around together for months deciding to put everybody in a dither by getting spliced in Reno recently . . . Joyce Silva of the Fox-Oakland sending in an unsigned money order to pay her dues . . . Bob Bartelson of the Globe resigning to take another job in the east . . . Esther Kelly Steffins of the Paramount dining alone at the Stein Room.

Here's Where to Join World Politics Course

Local residents interested in joining one of several adult discussion groups on World Politics being offered by the University Extension of the University of California at Berkeley are urged to register at any of the following places:

OAKLAND: Story Hour Room, Oakland Main Library, 125-14th St., course 10 Tuesday evenings from 8 to 10 p.m., starting March 1.

BERKELEY: Room 288, Dwinelle Hall, U. C. campus, 10 Monday evenings, 8 to 10 p.m., starting March 7.

BERKELEY Canteen Room, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 10 Thursday evenings, 8 to 10 p.m., starting March 10.

Object of the course is to help citizens think more soundly on basic issues of public policy. Registration fees are \$12 for individuals and \$18 for married couples.

December Nonfarm Jobs Almost Same as in 1954

December nonfarm employment in California was 3,951,200, says Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 500 below year ago; average weekly earnings for production workers in manufacturing industries was \$83.27 as compared to national average of \$74.12; average weekly hours 40.3.

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OFFICIAL NOTICES

Steamfitters Notes, Local 342

Steamfitters Auxiliary Plans Social Feb. 11

By MARY NALL

Press Correspondent for
Carpenters Auxiliary 160

The Executive Board met at the home of Aline Haake. After a short meeting at which the activities of the Auxiliary for the next month were discussed, Aline served us delicious home made blueberry pie with whipped cream. The next Board meeting will be with Agnes Anderson.

The regular social meeting was held on the 14th, and in spite of bad weather and some sickness, there was a good crowd.

Josephine Wheeler home from the hospital where she underwent surgery. She is doing nicely but is not able to return to her work. Flo Bartalini is at home now. She underwent surgery at the Alameda Hospital. She was an awful sick girl and is still only able to sit up part of the day. She has a long, slow pull ahead of her. Mae Bristol is in the hospital but is able to be around in a wheelchair. She is doing better than most of us expected. Keep up the good work Mae.

Clara Durflinger has been sick but so far has avoided going to the hospital. Bea Cameron has moved to 3118 Brookdale Ave. Eleanor Clapp has been sick with a cold but is much better.

Dora Harrington has returned from her year long trip in South America where she visited with her son. Glad to have you with us again Dora. Esther Dedmond's daughter has gone to Germany to be with her husband who is in the Service there.

Jean Kinney, Eleanor Clapp, Alta Benony's, Mary Nall, gave a bridal shower for Beverly Bartalini at the Bartalini home.

There were 36 present. We all had a grand time and were glad to have Chester there as host.

Flo was still in the hospital. Deloris Bartalini who is a Nurse Supervisor in the Queen's Hospital in the Islands came home to nurse her mother.

Sewing Circle met with Mary Nall on the 25th. There were about 12 present. We had exchange of gifts (white elephant) everybody seemed pleased with their gifts and had a good time.

February 11, the Auxiliary Social will hold a dinner at Little Oscar's, 108 Grand Avenue at 6:30. All members are urged to be present.

Please call Mary Nall, Jean Kinney or Heleny Lindahl if you are going.

The next sewing will be with Martha Light on February 22.

This is a special affair, so be sure and be there.

Remember you are a member of the Union Family—and patronize the Union Stores.

FREDERICK M. JACOB, a member of Stereotypers 29, died in Alameda on January 22 at age 68 leaving his widow, Louise; a son, Fred C.; brothers, Charles, Conrad and Henry; and sisters, Mrs. Frank Featherstone, Mrs. Marie Van Dorn and Mrs. Frances Scanlon.

The blue print, sent from Washington, said Megel should bring a report from the states according to the tailored wish against Federal aid. However, said the AFT head, since the governors appoint the state committees being "stacked." A blue print for guidance of the state committees proposes that all Federal aid to education be stopped.

The commission, now headed by Meyer Kestabum, head of Independent Unions and Labor Unity: Merger of the AFL and CIO is in prospect — Possibly This Year. What is in store for Other Unions — Particularly those the CIO Expelled?"

It is of course "those the CIO expelled" with which the article is "particularly" concerned, as they are the unions which the CIO, after long enduring them, decided the only recipe for curing them was firing them.

Originally, as Richmond points out, 11 unions were kicked out in 1949-50, "and today five unions remain."

Those five, "still surviving and unaffiliated," are: International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, Mine Mill & Smelter Workers, United Electrical Workers, American Communications Association, and the Fur & Leather Union.

Fur & Leather is now engaged in trying to get into the AFL Butchers. Presumably if they make it, it will only be after a purge of the Commie leaders whose exploits caused it to be fired by the CIO, but AFL President Meany has been examining the idea with a wary eye.

Richmond in his article in People's World skilfully wraps the need of these orphan unions for protection in a warm mantle of words about how CIO and AFL unions are seeking unity, things aren't going as well in unions in general since the "good old days" when the lefties were active in the unions, etc.

But the fact is that it has been known for some time to both AFL and CIO leaders that the Commies were hunting for cover. And now the People's World confirms it.

The commission on education is headed by Neil McElroy, president of a soap company, and Finis Engleman, Connecticut commissioner of education, vice chairman. Megel said that both men have indicated their stand against Federal aid to education, by their statements, although they are heading a committee which has the assignment of studying that subject.

WILLIAM R. CANNON, a member of Stereotypers 29, passed away here on February 3 at age 55 leaving his widow, Katherine R.; a brother, Donald L.; and a sister, Mrs. Golda Mayne.

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Only Official Publication of AFL
Central Labor and Building
Construction Trades Councils
of Alameda County.

FEBRUARY 11, 1955

OPINIONS

'JOURNAL COMES AS A FRESH BREEZE'

Editor, Labor Journal:

I have read with great interest the issues of the Labor Journal of last year, particularly the excellent sections: Report to our Readers-Owners, editorials, and articles dealing with elections and the role of the labor movement, as well as those concerning the teaching profession.

I am doing some research in regard to teaching and wonder what arguments the writer of the teacher column can offer pro and con in the proposition that teachers should be free to join the A. F. of L.

It would also be interesting to hear an opinion whether teachers should be required to join an official teachers organization such as the National Education Association.

It comes like a fresh breeze of air to see the labor paper finally get out of the wisecracking stage, and offer stimulating reading.

Of course, the readers who enjoyed gossip, petty political and interunion feuds must be disappointed by now. But them whatever you do, you can't satisfy all of the customers.

To some, I think, you speak meaningfully, in varying degrees, inevitably you are going to leave some of them cold, and annoy the rest of them. That is just the nature of the case.

Keep up your excellent work and continue to explain to the working people the hysteria of political witch hunts.

Sincerely
A. NIELSEN
Albany, Jan. 30

PUBLIC POWER

The private utility movement to destroy public power competition will have an adverse effect on power bills throughout the nation, the Langer Subcommittee has warned. Regulatory bodies are not sufficient to insure reasonably low rates, the subcommittee said. Parallel competition by public bodies is necessary to do that, it asserted.—Labor's Daily.

★★★

NEW TRIAD

Things look as if the imminent moral elan of the great revolution had petered out, and that we shall have a scientific social apparatus in which the triad of Faith, Hope, and Charity will be entirely replaced by the triad of Research, Insurance, and Management.—Karl Stern, quoted in Labor-Management Panel, published by University of San Francisco.

★★★

ACLU

... Bravo to a contemporary, the Kentucky Labor News, for its forthright editorial praising and supporting the American Civil Liberties Union! It's the kind of editorial we see all too seldom in other labor papers in these "controversial" times.—Colorado Labor Advocate.

★★★

HIS SPARE TIME

Prime Minister Churchill, who is an author in his spare time, has completed a three or four volume "History of the English speaking Peoples" ... The book follows his 5-volume history of World War II.—AP Dispatch from London.

★★★

'A BEAUT'

When I make a mistake, I make a beaut.—Fiorello LaGuardia, when as a Mayor of New York he made a bad appointment.

★★★

WHAT FDR DIDN'T

Roosevelt did not sit stolidly, giving the jobless and hungry people the stony bread of States' rights to eat.—Labor's Daily.

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EDITORIALS

AP Dispatch from Washington Deflates Burkett's Gas Bag

Oakland Tribune published in one edition of January 30 an informative Associated Press dispatch on the estimated amount of jobless pay chiseling in the nation as a whole. We have looked in vain for it in other editions of that same date. If we're wrong, and just overlooked it, we'd be glad to publish an apology. As things stand, we can't help but suspect that there were good reasons for the story being jerked out of other editions of a pro-Knight paper. For it contained these paragraphs:

"California, in particular, has been pushing a steady probe. Now claims more than 20 percent of benefits are being drawn improperly and State officials recently charged that nearly half the payments from the San Francisco office resulted from fraud.

"Washington officials are inclined to doubt the California figures on many scores, one being that other State survey results are nowhere near as high as California's.

"A sampling in 41 States up to mid-1954 indicated about 6% in wrong payments. This showed 3% due to innocent error of one kind or another and 3% due to willful fraud—that is, claimant misrepresentation aimed at gyping the system.

"Officials say more recent samples in 8 States reflect some improvement, showing a 4.1% improper payment ratio consisting of 2.4% fraud and 1.7% error."

That's certainly a different story from the one that Governor Knight's Employment Director Burkett has been peddling, and his pal Assemblyman Levering, introducer of the \$77 bills to implement Burkett's notions on how to wreck the unemployment insurance program.

Governor Knight better get off the dime and fire Burkett. Even the State Chamber of Commerce may get sore if Burkett keeps shouting phony statistics which imply that the working people of California are corrupt as compared to those in the other States of the Union!

But again we say: Let's keep our eye on the ball. The real goal to go after is to get the present inadequate \$30 weekly maximum unemployment benefit raised to \$50, the goal officially set by the State Federation of Labor at its 1954 convention.

Please, Goody, Try to Tell Truth!

Governor Knight was quoted in a February 3 Associated Press dispatch from Sacramento as telling the County Supervisors Association Institute on County Government that it is absolutely necessary to impose the various kinds of sales taxes he proposed in his budget message. He added, according to Associated Press:

"The only alternative would be abrupt increases in the tax rate on real estate, homes, factories, and other properties, all of which would be your responsibility."

That is an astonishing statement, even from the mouth of so confirmed a stooge of the big interests as Goody Knight.

How can a man say that "the only alternative" is an increased tax on real estate when this State collects only a measly 17% of its revenue from personal and corporate income taxes as compared with the 51.3% collected from personal and corporate income taxes by New York State and the 47.7% collected by Oregon from personal and corporate income taxes?

Over 60% of the revenue of this State is already collected from the various forms of sales tax. The sales tax hits the lower income groups the hardest of all taxes. Yet the Governor says the only thing to do is to load more sales taxes on us or to load the real estate owned by working people and others still more. And you can be sure the homes of working people would get soaked plenty if that deal were put over as "the only alternative."

New York and Oregon are not radical States, yet they get the bulk of their revenue from the people who have the money. Goody, we have heard, has some labor folk who supported him in the election and think he's the cat's whiskers. How about such folk pulling gently at one of those whiskers and whispering into the feline ear the facts of tax life?

The Snub Sneaky

Somehow we failed to get a thrill out of the news some time back that President and Mrs. Eisenhower had snubbed Joe McCarthy by failing to invite him to a White House reception which he was entitled to attend by virtue of his rank in the Senatorial hierarchy.

We prefer the way we suspect Harry Truman would have handled the McCarthy business. Harry would have stood up to the overgrown lad from Wisconsin from the start—in public—face to face. In short, he'd have nailed Mac's hide to the mast.

Then when the White House threw a party, and McCarthy's official place in the picture entitled him to it, he'd get an invitation, and Harry would have said, "Hello, Joe, how are you?"

As for FDR—well, somehow or other he'd have managed to pull the rug out from under McCarthy so early in the game that it would have never even been necessary to consider whether he should be invited.

But to be so bluffed by a blatherskite that you don't even praise your old friend George Marshall in the blatherskite's home State—and then to hide behind the walls of the White House and give the guy a sneaky snub!

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Assemblyman Bee Tells Experiences

Carlos Bee, Assemblyman, 13th District told the Democratic Forum Luncheon Club last week the woes and wows of a freshman member of the Legislature. He dismissed the woes with a smile, and told of his woes with a laugh that was heartily echoed by all present.

At the outset he held up a monstrous volume, explaining that his speech would be brief, as he would read it out of the 1600 pages it contained. It proved to be the budget, and since Bee has been assigned to the all important finance group of the Assembly, the Ways and Means Committee, he said he had been struggling with the perusal of it for some time.

It deeply serious vein Bee paid tribute to the campaign made by Anga Bjornson for the State Senatorship. He pointed out that the Republicans made a tremendous noise about "their glamor girl, Mildred Younger," and spent quantities of money on her campaign, "yet she didn't make nearly as good a run as Anga, who had very little financial support for her campaign."

Bee, a member of the Assembly Elections Committee, commented also on the close run against the incumbent made by Bob Crown in the 14th Assembly District. Bee voted to give Crown a recount, but the majority of the committee voted against it.

Bee returns to Sacramento February 14 to work on the budget. The second session opens Monday, February 28.

Bee, an educator, is new in the Legislature, but is accustomed to public life, as he served for years on the Hayward City Council, and for some years as Mayor of that city. He holds the place in the Assembly held for 12 years by Francis Dunn Jr., now a member of the Board of Supervisors.

How Can The Daily Press Get Better?

Don Fazackerley, assistant advertising manager of the San Francisco News, and president of the Association of Catholic Newsmen, was asked by the Monitor, San Francisco Catholic weekly:

"How can our daily newspaperers improve?"

His reply was:

"The only real way to improve our newspapers is to get better people into the business. Vast opportunities exist. There is growing up in our country a new 'management team' approach to the newspaper publishing business. No longer is there a dominant publisher-personality as the major factor in today's newspapers."

"The shift away from personal journalism as we knew it to the modern team approach means opportunities all the way to the top for competent people."

"For some reason I can't understand, our best morally-grounded college graduates are seeking careers in law, medicine, education or science and passing up one of our most critical fields today—journalism.

"Remember, the news reports reaching every family in America aren't written by some publisher in an ivory tower; they are fed into the presses from the typewriters and copy pencils of working reporters. Isn't that a career that counts?"

WILLIAM A. D'ANIS Sr., a retired long-time member of Retail Clerks, 870, died at his home in Berkeley on February 1. He was 79. Brother D'Anis is survived by his widow, Anna; sons, George and William Jr.; daughters, Mrs. Paul Rothel and Mrs. Winston McCausland; brothers, George and Bryan; and sisters, Mrs. Andrew Laramore and Mrs. Silpha Riley; and five grandchildren.

A JAPANESE STUDENT will present his impressions of America before the Current Affairs class at Technical Adult School, Broadway at 42nd St., on Thursday, February 17, at 7:15 p. m. The public is invited.

DANIEL J. BROWN a member of Boilermakers 39, died here suddenly on February 1 leaving his widow, Virginia; a daughter, Mrs. Marion Sondre; sisters, Mrs. Imelda Baldwin and Mrs. Josephine I. Brown; and brothers, Adolph and Charles on Thursday, February 17, at 7:15 p. m. The public is invited.

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